(f) Supply of Hank\arn at Millgate Prices through National Handloom Development Corporation to handloom production centres;

(g) Assistance provided under the Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing scheme to build up production capabilities through diversification of products, design development and through publicity and marketing abroad;

(h) Updating of website at frequent intervals to update information to the buyers about the handloom products; and

(i) Inviting buyers from abroad to visit various handloom production centres in India.

Supply of Hank Yarn to Handloom Sector

177.SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has cut mandatory Hank Yarn obligation for spinning mills from 50 per cent to 40 per cent in the third week of January, 2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry is planning to introduce any alternative mechanism for supplying hank yam to handloom sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) On the request of a large number of Textile Mills in India as well as Textile Mills Associations, large inventories with Textile Mills and in view of adequate supply of Hank Yarn for the comsuption of handloom sector, the Government reviewed the Hank Yarn Obligation Order, in accordance with the previsions of Para 18 of the National Textile Policy, and decided to reduce the hank yam obligation from the existing level of 50% to 40% of total yarn packed for civil consumption during each quarter and in every subsequent quarter, *w.e.f.* 1.1.2003. Since no shortage of hank yarn to the handloom sector is reported upto the fortnight ending 31.1.2003, need for any alternative mechanism for supplying hank yam to handloom sector is not envisaged.